SUBJECT No. 487.

Water-taps in houses.

Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi taluk.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya, Bangalore City Municipal Council.

Summary of discussion.—The hardship experienced by those who have house-taps cannot be described. The presence of meters has caused much trouble. This is in no way beneficial to Government and to the people. In similar municipalities they have done away with the meters for house-connections. In the Bangalore Cantonment Municipality, for instance, they have done away with meters. In the City, on the other hand, the restrictions are getting more and more day by day. There is no gain at all from these meters. In the Bangalore City, there are about 1,000 house-connections with an equal number of meters costing at the rate of Rs. 60 per meter. The interest on this amount with the incidental expenses for wear and tear comes to about Rs. 5,000 annually. The establishment costs Rs. 2,000 per year. Thus a total expenditure of not less than Rs. 7,000 per annum is incurred on this. The realisation on account of excess water is estimated at about Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 and of this only about Rs. 3,000 to 4,000 is collected. Such being the case, there is no benefit from the existence of meters. Water-supply is not a luxury as electric lights. The original organizers of the water-supply scheme never intended that the people should be restricted in the use of water. Pray that the existing meters be done away with and the order of stopping water if the excess is not paid within 15 days repealed. The subject was discussed last year and we were told that the alteration of the rule was under consideration but no orders have been issued.

If meters cannot be abolished the tax should be levied on the size of the pipe ½ inch, ¼ inch or the quantity of water regulated according to the number of people dwelling in a house at so much per head.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 488.

An A.-V. School at Closepet.

Mr. K. S. Santanam Iyengar, Closepet Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The only institution available at present for the instruction of the boys at Closepet is the Mission High School. This is not only inconvenient but also unsatisfactory. An A.-V. School may be caused to be opened and the keenly felt want supplied.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 489.

Water-supply to Closepet town.

Mr. K. S. Santanam Iyengar, Closepet Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—There is no source of drinking water at Closepet except what is supplied from the river, which is dry for the most part of the year. The Norea pump intended to supply water has proved a thorough failure. The Municipality is too poor to invest any fund for the purchase of the requisite machinery. It has, however, agreed to see its way to contribute for the working expenses of the machinery.

Reply of Government.—Noted.